



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 5, 2003

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FOOD STAMP ASSISTANCE TO HELP ADDITIONAL SHELBY COUNTY RESIDENTS

USDA APPROVES DISASTER AID TO NON-FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS

MEMPHIS, Tenn.— Shelby County residents who suffered property damage or lost wages during last month's storm may be able to get some additional help from the federal government. The Tennessee Department of Human Services, which administers the Food Stamp Program for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), announced that residents who are **NOT** participants in the Food Stamp Program may now qualify for the Modified Food Stamp Program.

The USDA granted an emergency waiver for Shelby County residents late Monday. This means that residents **NOT** currently enrolled in the Food Stamp Program may qualify for the Modified Food Stamp Program. Residents may be eligible if they live or work within the affected disaster area and:

- Their home or property was damaged or destroyed
- They have experienced a loss of income as a result of the storm

Applicants must visit a local DHS office between **August 6 through August 9** to apply for benefits. Offices are taking applications based on an individual's zip code.

- The office at **3360 South Third** is taking applications from residents living in the following zip codes: **38106, 38109, 38116, 38126, 38118 and 38114**
- The office at **3230 Jackson Avenue** is taking applications from residents living in the following zip codes: **38002, 38004, 38011, 38018, 38028, 38029, 38038, 38103, 38104, 38105, 38107, 38108, 38111, 38112, 38115, 38117, 38119, 38122, 38125, 38127, 38128, 38133, 38134, 38135, 38138 and 38152**

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CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR
400 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37248
615.313.4700

- Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday
- Applicants need to bring information to verify identity, home address (driver's license, utility bill, etc.) and the Social Security numbers of everyone in his/her household. Applicants will be asked to provide a statement of their income and cash resources.

Once an applicant is determined eligible, the funds will be available immediately. There is a **90-day** deadline to use the benefits. The average benefit will vary from household to household. This assistance is **ONLY** for storm victims currently **NOT** enrolled in the Food Stamp Program.

Nearly 60,000 Shelby County households relying on the Food Stamp Program received word last week that replacement benefits would be available to help them purchase food they lost during the power outage. The USDA authorized replacement allotments for 50 percent of their monthly benefits on July 29. DHS programmed its computers so the benefits would appear on affected recipients' Food Stamp Program electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards automatically, without participants having to call or come into the office.

For more information on the Food Stamp Program, visit the DHS website at:
<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/foodstamps.htm>

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